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THE
LAWFVLNESSE
OF
OUR EXPEDITION INTO
ENGLAND,
MANIFESTED.



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ЛАНГУАЖЕС СИМПСИКІЯ

ENGLAND

METHODS



“*It is a good idea to have a local
agent who is well informed about your
area and can help you get started.*”

The lavyfulnesse of our Expedition into ENGLAND manifested.

AS from the beginning till this time, wee have attempted nothing presumptuously in this great Work of Reformation, but have proceeded upon good grounds, and have been led forward by the good hand of GOD; So now, from our own perswasion, are we ready to answe every one that asketh us a reason of this our present Expedition; which is one of the greatest and most notable parts of this wonderfull Work of G O D ; beseeching all to lift up their mindes above their own particulars, and without prejudice or partiality to lay to heart the considerations following.

I. As all men know and confess, what is the great force of necessity, and how ir doth iustifie actions otherwayes unwarrantable; So can it not be denied , but wee must either seek our peace in *England* at this time , or lye under three heavy burthens, which we are not able to beare. First, wee must maintain Armies on the Borders, and all places nearest to hazard, for the defence and preservation of our Countrey, which by our laying down of Arms, & disbanding of our Forces, should be quickly over-ruune by hostile invasion, and the incursions of our enemies. Secondly, we shall want all trade by Sea , which would not onely deprive the Kingdome of many necessaries, but utterly undoe our Burrowes, Merchants, Mariners, and many others who live by fishings and by commodities exported and imported, and whose particular callings are utterly made voyd by want of commerce with other Nations and Sea-trade. Thirdly, the Subjects through the whole Kingdome shall want administration of Justice ; and although this time past, the marvailous power & providence

of G O D hath kepted the Kingdome in order and quietnesse without ordinary Judicatories sitting, yet cannot this be expected for afterward, but all shall turne to confusion. Any one of the three, much more all of them put together, threaten us with most certain ruine, unlesse wee speedily use the remedy of this Expedition. And this we say not from feare, but from feeling; for we have already felt to our unspeakable prejudice, what it is to maintain Armies, what to want traf-
fique, what to want administration of Justice; And if the beginning of those evils be so heavy; what shall the grōuth and long continuance of them prove unto us? So miserable a be-
ing, all men would judge to be worse then no being.

II. If we consider the nature and quality of this Expedi-
tion, It is defensive, & so the more justifieable. For proofe
hereof, let it be remembred: 1. The Kings Majesty misedde
by the crafty and cruell faction of our adversaries, began this
yeares warre, not wee. When articles of pacification had
been the other year agreed upon, Armes layed down, Forts
and Castles rendred, an Assembly kept and concluded with
the presence & consent of his Majesties high Commissioner,
the promised ratification thereof in Parliament (contrary to
the foresaid Articles) was denied unto us. And when we
would have informed his Majesty by our Commissioners, of
the reasons and manner of our proceedings, they got not so
much as presence or audience. Thereafter his Majesty being
content to haue them, before that they came to Court
or were heard, warre was concluded against us at the Coun-
cell table of England, & a Commission given to the Earle of
Northumberland for that effect: The Parliaments of *Ireland*
ahd *England* were also convocat for granting Subsidies unto
this warre against us, as is notour: plots have been hatched,
and military preparations made against us: many invasions
by sea, which have spoiled us of our ships & goods: men, wo-
men, & children killed in *Edinburgh* by his Majesties Forces
in the Castle: Our enemies therefore are the authors and be-
ginners of the warre, and we defenders onely. 2. We intend
not the hurt of others, but our own peacee and preservation,
neither are we to offer any injury or violence: And therefore
have furnished our selves according to our power with all
necessars

necessars, not to fight at all, except wee be forced to it in our own defence, as our Declaration beareth. 3. We shall retire & lay down our Armes, as soon as we shall get a sure peace, and shall be satisfied in our just demands. Upon which ground even some of those who would seeme the greatest Royalists, hold the warres of the Protestants in *France* against the King & the faction of the *Guisians* to have been lawfull defensive wars, because they were ever ready to disband & quiet themselves when they got assurance of peace & liberty of Religion. Now this present Expedition being in the nature of it defensive, hence it appeareth, that it is not contrary, but consonant to our former Protestations, Informations, and Remonstrances: In all which, there is not one word against defensive warre in this cause: but strong reasons for it, all which militar for this Expedition. Our first Information sent to *England* this year, though it accuseth all offensive or invasive warre, yet sheweth plainly, that if we be invaded either by sea or land, we must doe as a man that fighthe himself out of prison. If a privat man when his house is blocked up, so that he can have no liberty of commerce & traffique to supply himself & his family, being also in continuall hazard of his life, not knowing when he shall be assaulted by his enemies who lye in wait against him, may in this case most lawfully set forth with the Forces which he can make, & fight himself free: Of how much more worth is the whole Nation? and how shall one and the same way of defence and liberation bee allowed to a privat man, and disallowed to a Nation?

III. Thirdly, wee are called to this Expedition by that same divine providence & vocation which hath guided us hitherto in this great businesse. We see the expediency of it, for the glory of GOD, for the good of the Church, for advancing the Gospell, for our own peace, after seeking of GOD, & beginning light & direction from Heaven, our hearts are inclined to it, GOD hath given us zeal & courage to prosecute it, ability & oportunitie for under-taking it, Instruments fitted for it, unanimous resolution upon it, scruples removed out of minds where they were harboured, encouragements to atchieve it from many passages of divine providence, & namely from the proceedings of the last Parliament in *England*, their grievan-

tes & desires being so homogeneall & sibbe to ours. We have laboured in great long-suffering by Supplications, Informations, Commissions, and all other means possible to avoid this Expedition: It was not premeditate nor affected by us (God knowes,) but our enemies have necessitat & redacted us unto it, & that of purpose to lowe the seed of Nationall quarrells ; yet as God hitherto hath turned all their plots against themselves, & to effects quite contrary to those that they intended: so are we hopefull, that our going into *England*, so much wished & desired by our adversaries for producing a Nationall quarrell , shall so farre disappoint them of their aymes, that it shall link the two Nations tog ther in straiter & stronger bonds both of civill and Christian love, then ever before. And that we may see yet further evidences of a calling from God to this voyage , we may obserue the order of the Lords steps & proceedings in this Work of Reformation. For, beginning at the grosse Popery of the Service-book, & book of Canons, he hath followed the back trade of our defection, till he hath reformed the very first & smale left Novations which entered in this Church. But so it is that this back trade leadeth yet further, to the Prelacy in *England* , the fountaine whence all those Prelats, Bishops, & Clerkes issued unto us: The Lord therefore is still on the back trade , and we following him therein, can not yet be at a stay. Yea; we trust, that he shall so follow forth this trade, as to chase home the beast & the false prophet to *Rome*, & from *Rome* out of the world. Besides, this third consideration resulteth from the former two; for if this Expedition be necessary, & if it be defensive, then it followeth inevitably, that we are called unto it; for our necessary defence is warranted, yea commanded by the Law of God and Nature, and we are obliged to it in our Covenant.

I V. Fourthly, the lawfulnessse of this Expedition appeareth, if we consider the party against whom: which is not the Kingdome of *England*, but the *Canterburian* faction of Papists, Atheists, Arminians, Prelats, the misleaders of the Kings Majestie, & the common enemies of both Kingdomes. We perswade our selves, that our Brethren & neighbours in *England* will never be so evill-advised , as to make themselves a party against us by their defence & patrociny of our enemies among

among them, as sometime the *Benjamites* made themselves a party against the *Israelites*, by defending the *Gibeathites* in their wicked cause, *Judg. 20.* We pray GOD to give them the wisedome of the wise woman in *Abell*, who when *Joab* came neare to her city with an Army, found out a way which both kept *Joab* from being an enemy to the City, and the City from being an enemy to him, *2 Sam. 20.* As touching the provision and furniture of our Army in *England*, it shall be such as is used among friends, not among enemies. The rule of humanity and gratitude will teach them to furnish us with necessaries, when as beside the procuring of our own peace, we doe good offices to them. They detest (we know) the churlishnes of *Nabal*, who refused victuals to *David* and his men, who had done them good and no evill, *1 Sam. 25.* And the inhumanity of the men of *Succoth* and *Penuell*, who denied bread to *Gideons* Army, when he was pursuing the common enemies of all *Israel*, *Judg. 8.* But let the *English* doe of their benevolence what humanity and discretion will teach them; For our own part, our Declaration sheweth, that we seeke not victuals for nought, but for money or security: And if this should be refusel (which we shall never expect) it were as ~~damnati~~ ^{barbarous} ~~to~~ ^{to} let *Israel* passe through their Countrey, or to give them bread and water in any case, *Num. 20. Judg. 11.* and this offence the Lord accounted so inexpiable, that for it he accursed the *Edomites* and *Moabites* from entering into the congregation of the Lord unto the tenth generation, *Deut. 23. 3.4.*

V. The fifth consideration concerneth the end for which this voyage is under-taken. Wee have attested the searcher of hearts, It is not to execute any disloyall act against the Kings Majestie, It is not to put forth a cruell or vindictive hand against our adversaries in *England*, whom we desire only to be judged and censured by their own honourable & hight Court of Parliament; It is not to enrich our selves with the wealth of *England*, nor to doe any harme thereto: But by the contrair we shall gladly bestow our paines & our meanes to doe them all the good we can, which they might justly look for at our hands, for the help whicht they made us at our Reformation.

Reformation, in freeing us from the *French*, a bond of peace & love betwixt them and us to all generations. Our conscience, and GOD who is greater then our conscience beareth us record, that we aime allanerly at the glory of GOD, peace of both Nations, & honour of the King in suppressing and punishing in a legall way of those who are the troublers of *Israel*, the fire-brands of hell, the *Korebs*, the *Balaams*, the *Doegs*, the *Rabshakhs*, the *Hamans*, the *Tobiabs* and *Sambatians* of our time, which done, we are satisfied. Neither have we begun to use a military Expedition to *England* as a mean for compassing those our pious ends, till all other meanes which we could think upon have failed us, and this alone is left to us as *ultimum & unicum remedium*, the last and onely remedy.

VI. Sixtly, if the Lord shall blesse us in this our Expedition, and our Intentions shal not be crossed by our own sinnes, and miscarriage, or by the opposition of the *English*, the fruits shall be sweet, and the effects comfortable to both Nations, to the Posterity, and to the reformed Kirkes abroad: *Scotland* shall be reformed as at the beginning, the Reformation of *England* long prayed and pleaded for by the Godly there shall be according to their wishes and desires perfected in doctrine, worinip, and discipline, and all the members of the Antichristian Hierarchy, with their Idolatrie, Superstition, and humane Inventions shall pack them hence; the names of Sects and Separatists shall no more bee mentioned, and the Lord shall be one, and his Name one throughout the whole Iland, which shall be glory to GOD, honour to the King, joy to the Kingdome, comfort to the posterity, example to other Christian Kirkes, and confusion to the incorrigible enemies.

F I N I S.